



The Black-a-moor in the Wood.

IN Rome a nobleman did wed
a virgin of great fame,
A fairer creature never did
dame nature ever frame.

By whom he had two children do
whose beauty did excel;

And were their parents only joy
they lov'd them both so well.

This lord he lov'd to hunt the bu
the tyger, and the boar,
And still for swiftness always to
with him a blackamoor.

Which blackamoor within the w
his lord he did offend,
For which he did him then corre
in hopes he would amend.

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The day it drew into an end,
then homewards they did hast
Where with his lady he did rest
until the night be past.

Then in the morning he did rise,
and doth his servants call,
A hunting to provide to go;
straight they were ready all.

Caouse of this teil the lady did
littreat him not to go,

Alas good lady, then, quoth he,
why art thou grieved so?

Content thyself I will return
with speed to thee again,
Good father, snub the little bab-

Good father, quote the little bat
with us here still remain.
Farewell, dear children. I will

Farewell, dear children, I will
a fine thing you to buy,
But they therewith no whit cont-

But they therewith no whit content
aloud began to cry.
Their mother takes them by the hand
singing with them.

saying, come, go with me,
Unto my highest tower, where
My father you shall see.

The blackamoor perceiving now
(who then did stay behind)

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His lord a hunting to be gone,
began to call to mind:

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My master he did me correct,
my fault not being great.

Now of his wife I'll be reveng'd,
he shall not me intrcat.

The place was moated round about Some ran into the forest wide,
the bridge he did updraw, his lord home for to call, which when his lord did see,
The gates he bolted very strong, And they that stood still did lament Then presently he cry'd out,
of none he stood in awe; the gallant lady's fall. and fell upon his knee.
He up into the tower went, With speed the lord came posting Quoth he, if thou wilt save her life
his lady being there, but could not enter in, (home (whom I do hold so dear)
Who when she saw his countenance, His lady's cries did pierce his heart I will forgive thee all that's past,
she straight began to fear. to call he did begin, tho' they concern me near,
But now my trembling heart quakes O hold thy hand thy savage moor, O save her life I thee beseech,
to think what I must write, to hurt her do forbear.
My senses all began to faint, Or else be sure, if that I live O save her life I pray,
my soul it doth affright: wild horses shall thee tear.
Yet I must make an end of this, With that the rogue ran to the wall, Well, quoth the moor, I do regard
which here I have begun, who having had his will, the moan which thou dost make,
Which will make soft the hardest and brought one child under his arms If thou wilt grant what I request
before that I have done. (heart his dearest blood to spill. I'll save her for thy sake.
The wretch unto his lady went, The child seeing his father there, O save her life and now demand
and her with speed did will, to him for help did call, of me what thing thou wilt;
His lust forthwith to satisfy, O father help my mother dear, Cut off thy nose, and not one drop
his mind for to fulfil. we shall be killed all!
The lady she amazed was, Then fell the lord upon his knees, With that this noble lord did take
to hear the villain speak, and did the moor intreat, a knife into his hand
Alas! quoth she, what will I do? To save the life of his poor child, And there his nose he quite cut off
with grief my heart will break. whose fear was then as great. in place where he did stand.
With that he took her in his arms But the vile wretch the little child Now I have bought my lady's life
She straight for help did cry, by both the heels did take, then to the moor did call,
Content thyself, lady, quoth he, and dash'd it's brains against the wall Then take her quoth the wicked
your husband is not nigh. while parents hearts did quake! and down he let her fall. (rogue
The bridge is drawn the gates is shut That being dead he quickly ran, Which when the gallant lord did see
therefore come lie with me, the other child to fetch, his senses all did fall,
Or else I do protest and vow, And pluck't it from the mother's Yet many sought to save his life,
thy butcher I will be, most like a cruel wretch. (breast but they could not prevail.
The crystal tears ran from her eyes, Within one hand he brought a knife When as the moor did see him dead
her children cry'd amain. the child within the other, then he did laugh amain,
and sought to help their mother dear, And holding it over the wall, At them who for this gallant lord
but alas! all was in vain. said thus shall die thy mother, and lady did complain.
For the egregious filthy rogue With that he cuts the throat of him Quoth he I know you'll torture me
her hands behind her bound, then on his father calls, if that you do me get,
And then by force with all his might To look how he the head had cut, But all your threats I do not fear,
he threw her on the ground, that down the brains did fall. nor yet regard one whit.
With that she skriek'd, her children This done he threw it o'er the wall Wild horses should my body tear,
and such a noise did make (cry'd into the moat so deep, I know it to be true,
The townsmen hearing their lament Which made his father wring his But I'll prevent you of that pain;
did seek their parts to take, and grievously to weep, (hands then down himself he threw.
But all in vain, no way they found Then to the lady this rogue went To good a death for such a wretch
to aid the lady's need, who was near dead for fear, a villain void of fear,
Who cry'd to them most piteously, Yet the vile wretch most cruelly, And this doth end as sad a tale
Oh help oh help with speed. did drag her by the hair. as ever man did hear.